GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2975
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Autonomy to Institutions
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is emphasizing on giving autonomy to additional educational institutions and if so, the steps taken by the Government taken in this regard including the mechanism to be adopted to give autonomy to more universities and the objective behind the move;
(b) the number of autonomous higher educational institutions are currently functional in the country, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether these institutions are being monitored to ensure the quality of education and if so, the details of the same;
(d) whether the Government has set up a ranking system for autonomous educational institutions; and
(e) if so, the number of autonomous institutions covered by this ranking system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a) to (c): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has implemented the scheme of Autonomous Colleges with a view to bring in quality reforms in higher education. The Scheme of Autonomous Colleges offers academic and operative freedom to the Colleges. The autonomy so awarded under the scheme enables a College to determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs and to devise innovative methods of teaching, examination and evaluation. The scheme of Autonomous Colleges is open for all Colleges. Any number of Colleges under a University can apply for award of autonomous status to UGC under this scheme. However, Colleges are granted autonomous status only when they fulfill conditions as prescribed in the guidelines of the scheme of Autonomous Colleges. However, these guidelines are being revised so as to provide more autonomy to top ranking Higher Educational Institutions based on National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking. These institutions will be offered certain privileges to enable them to achieve yet higher standards. As on 15.03.2017 there are 595 Autonomous Colleges (affiliated to 103 Universities) in 24 States /Union Territories in the country. Detailed information on State/UT-wise number of Autonomous colleges is at annexure. The existing guidelines for the scheme provide for monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and maintain standards of higher education of the autonomous colleges.
(d) & (e): No separate ranking system is in place for Autonomous Colleges by UGC. However, the Central Government has recently launched NIRF under which Educational Institutions are ranked by an independent ranking agency on the basis of objective criteria. The first of such ranking was completed and placed in the public domain on 4th April, 2016. Detailed information on institutions participated in the ranking exercise alongwith their ranks is available at https://www.nirfindia.org/Ranking .